

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for wisdom as they prepare for the Fall Semester.
- Pray for their baby who should be arriving soon.



CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Look for their prayer letter on our website. www.gcc-pa.org
- Pray as they lead “Art of Parenting” at their church this fall.

Crossing Cultures International: David and Mindy Nelson

Pray for God's provision for the CCI Fall Tour. Dr. David Nelson and seven National Directors representing several countries as they visit churches and ministry partners in DC, Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. Please pray for the logistics of the tour, their health and protection, their air and land travels, and the lives that will be impacted by hearing their testimonies.

“God is everywhere in creation; but if you want a special display of Him, if you would know what is the secret place of the tabernacle of the Most High, the inner chamber of divinity, you must go where you find the church of true believers, for it is here He makes His continual residence known—in the hearts of the humble and contrite, who tremble at His word.”

—Charles Spurgeon



September 4, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Becoming Clean

CLEAN &
UNCLEAN

MARK 7:14-23

Mark 7:15

There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise: "The Father's House" Asbury/Hastings/Hulse

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed*

Hymn of Affirmation

"How Great Thou Art". . .Stuart K. Hine/Swedish Folk Melody

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly: Jeremiah 17:9-10

Public Confession: Adapted from John Knox's liturgy of 1560

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 6:5-7

Song of Renewal

"Before the Throne of God Above". Vikki Cook

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 7:14-23 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

"Defiled"

Song of Communion: "Behold the Lamb". Getty/Townend

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"May the Words of My Mouth". Hughes/Hill

Benediction

*Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated in the 2nd century and developed into its present form by the 6th century. By referring to Jesus' descent into hell, the Christian embraces two truths. Firstly, Jesus received the full sentence of hell on behalf of his people while on the cross. Secondly, Jesus experienced the reign of death by remaining in the tomb after the crucifixion. The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographical, or language barriers

Could Jesus have been any clearer? No foods cause spiritual impurity in a man, for the simple reason that whatever is consumed is digested or eliminated. It has no spiritual effect on his heart. The obvious implication was that no avoidance of particular foods could bring righteousness. Simply put, the whole dietary system of Israel was worthless in terms of producing righteousness.¹

Out of the cesspool of the corrupt heart flow evil words, evil actions, and evil attitudes; the Lord enumerated six of each.

Conclusion

- You and I are not to fear the pollution that's outside of you, you're to fear the pollution that is inside of you.
- **Religion is outside in.**
"If I do all these things, then God will come in and maybe accept me and heal my heart so I don't feel inconsequential."
- **The gospel is inside out.**
The gospel is God, through Jesus Christ, at infinite cost to himself, has clothed us in costly garments. It cost him his blood. He loves us, and we're beautiful in his sight now by sheer grace.
- **To the degree you know the gospel is inside out, that heals your heart.**

Then you can move out into the world not scared, not needing approval, not over-needing power, not needing it at all.

"The mark of the true Christian isn't that sin never gets the upper hand—not that our desires are flawlessly Godward. The mark of the Christian is that at the root of our lives is this new treasuring of Christ over all things. He has assumed a place in our hearts that pulls us back again and again to renew our devotion to him as supreme. Christians have discovered that the indwelling Spirit magnifies the worth of Jesus above all things, and moves us to repentance when we fail to feel that worth as we ought. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)."

—John Piper

¹Sproul, R. C. (2011). Mark (First Edition, p. 166). Reformation Trust.

The Bible says our problem is not outside of us, our problem is inside of us.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.”

The Heart

As is often the case in Scripture the heart refers not to the physical organ but to the inner person—the seat of one’s mental, emotional, and spiritual being. It encompasses one’s attitudes, affections, priorities, ambitions, and desires. The Lord’s point was that something physical and external, like food eaten with unwashed hands, cannot defile the inner person because it is physical, not spiritual. The condition of one’s heart before God is not determined by what one eats.

The problem is not outside of you, the problem is inside of you.

2. We’re all trying to Cleanse Ourselves

Mark 7:17–23 (ESV)

And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

What Jesus is saying is rather simple. What’s wrong with us? What’s really wrong with the world? Why is the world a miserable place? Why do we have all this strife that we have?

It’s the heart. It’s the self-centeredness of the human heart.

3. We’re all trying to deal with a Sense of Uncleaness

We’re all trying to cleanse ourselves. We’re all trying to do something that Jesus says is basically impossible.

4. It’s Jesus who can cleanse us

Thus he declared all foods clean.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 10 6:00 P.M. Ladies’ Supper

at the home of Donna Plowfield, 983 E. Valley Rd. Pottstown,
Make your reservation with Koreen Mace.

Saturday, September 17 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast

at the home of Pastor Rick

Sunday, September 18 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer

Worship at 1300 High St. Pottstown

Sunday, September 25 10:30 A.M.

David Nelson and associates will be with us for the worship service followed by a luncheon.

Wednesday, September 28 7:00 A.M. See You at the Pole

Pray with classmates at your school flagpole.

Saturday, November 12 Ladies Event

Verna Bowman speaking: Time and Place TBD

Currently the Youth Ministry is going through a change in leadership. During this time, the Elders are working through this transition to support the change in leadership. We do not have a time when Youth Group meetings will resume. As this process continues, we will keep you informed. Please pray for the Elders and the youth during this time. We do believe all this is a part of the revitalization and growth of GCC. The Elders are available to answer any questions you may have.



Pro-Life Prayer

FATHERS IN PREGNANCY CRISIS

A man who receives word that he is the father of a preborn child may experience many emotions and thoughts. Whether he is fearful of the future, anxious about how to respond to the news, or worried about what the mother will choose, this man needs to know he is loved and that his child is designed by a loving God. Pray these men will have wisdom and boldness to choose life. Ask God to send men into their lives who will model fatherhood and support them in this process. Pray they will experience the peace that only comes from Christ.

Prayer/Praise.September 4, 2022

- Pray for Macie and Cassie Frame, who are getting settled in their new home in California. Pray they will always remember they are children of God and that He will protect them.
- Pray for Terri Yerk, friend of Donna Jenkins, who was admitted to Park House with a stroke. Pray for healing for him and God's comfort for his wife.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Praise that Ernest, co-worker of Steve Simons, is taking parenting classes and has visitation rights for his child.
- Praise that Steve's brother John's mother-in-law, who had a nasty fall, is home from the hospital and doing well.
- Praise that Mrs. McCabe, whose husband passed away, is doing well, and people are taking care of her.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Beth, who will be starting a 5-day radiation treatment program for one month beginning on September 19th. Pray for God's continued healing for Beth.
- Pray for Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, who has been going through multiple surgeries due to burns from his accident and experiencing mental health issues at the present time. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin.
- Pray for John Kurtyka, cousin of Lorraine Blanski, whose daughter, Leah, passed away on September 1st, due to a drug overdose. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for John's family and John, who lost both of his children.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for the families.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniuk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing from cancer.

Message

Becoming Clean

Mark 7:14–23

Introduction

The subject over which Jesus and religious leaders in this passage are arguing are the Mosaic clean laws. If you touched a dead body (animal or human being), if you had an infectious skin disease like boils or rashes or sores, if you came into contact with mildew (your clothes, articles in your home, or even in your house itself), if you had any kind of bodily discharge like diarrhea or a hemorrhage of blood and pus, or if you ate food made of animals that were designated as unclean (like the pig), you were considered ritually impure, defiled, unclean.

What did it mean to be considered ritually impure, defiled, and unclean?

It meant you couldn't go into the temple. You couldn't go in and worship God with the community.

Jesus disagrees with the leaders of his day about the source of the uncleanness, and he disagrees with the leaders about what to do about the uncleanness.

The thing Jesus doesn't disagree with the leaders about is that we are unclean.

We All Have a Sense of Being Unclean

We all have a kind of deep, profound, inescapable sense that if we were examined, we wouldn't pass.

The Jews of Jesus day had developed a very, very sophisticated external religious system to deal with uncleanness.

We know the world is full of defilement.

We know it is full of corruption. We know that evil runs deep and it runs wide.

1. Pinpointing the Source of Defilement

Mark 7:14–16 (ESV)

And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."